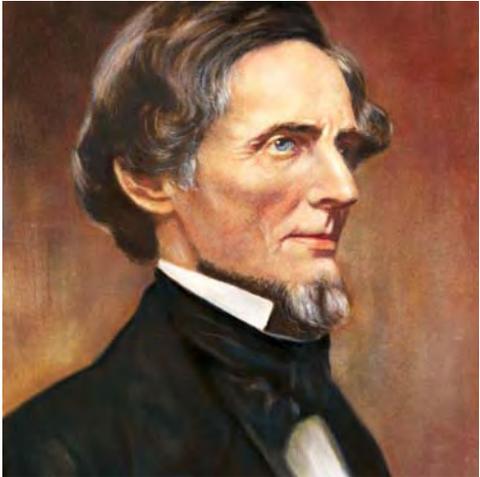


Fact: the Confederate Government NEVER Surrendered



"Neither the official Confederate State Governments of the Southern States that make up the Confederate States of America, nor the General Government under President Jefferson Davis, have ever surrendered. Instead, America's original Confederated, Republican form of government was overthrown at the point of the bayonet, and illegitimate defacto government installed in its place. For over 150 years the War for Southern Independence has never formally ended with a peace treaty between the two nations at war. All that General Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox was the Army of Northern Virginia, nothing else. The same is true of General Johnston when he surrendered his Army in Carolina. These Generals had no authority to surrender anything other than Confederate soldiers under their command. *No official Confederate States of America government has ever surrendered.* Even supposing it had wanted to, the United States government would likely not have accepted. To do so would have given the Confederate States and the Confederacy the legitimacy due, and Lincoln's government would never have done that. [see: No Surrender for the Confederate States of America, by Al Benson Jr.; The History of the Confederacy--1832-1865, by Clifford Dowdey]. **America's original Confederated, Republican form of government has been faithfully defended and preserved by the establishment of the permanent form of government embodied by the Confederate States of America. This insures that America's original system of government will remain a permanent lawful option always available to Americans.** Patterned after the U.S. Constitution, the Confederate States of America Constitution more clearly establishes that political authority possess only delegated and limited powers, and it prevents the growth of a sectional party. Its Preamble states thusly: "We, the people of the Confederate States, each State acting in its sovereign and independent character, in order to form a permanent federal government, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, and secure the

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blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, invoking the favor and guidance of Almighty God, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Confederate States of America."



**Joseph O.
Shelby**

**Joseph O. Shelby.
(State Historical
Society of Missouri)**

Confederate General Joseph O. Shelby was so reluctant to surrender to Union forces that his unit earned the nickname "the Undefeated." Shelby had spent the Civil War commanding a bushwhacking band of cavalry on a series of raids through Missouri and Arkansas. By the end of the conflict, his "Iron Brigade" – so named for its legendary grit – had caused millions of dollars in damages to Union supplies and property.

Announcing that they chose "exile over surrender," Shelby and roughly 600 soldiers rode south to Mexico after the collapse of the Confederacy. Following a three-month journey through the desert, they offered their services to Maximilian I, an Austro-Hungarian who had been installed as emperor of Mexico in 1864. While the emperor balked at including rebel soldiers in his army, he allowed Shelby's émigrés to help found the Carlota Colony, a small settlement of Confederate expats. The upstart community enjoyed a brief period of prosperity but eventually dissolved after Emperor Maximilian was overthrown. Having never surrendered to federal forces, Shelby and most of his comrades returned to the United States in 1867 and resumed civilian life.

Fact: the Confederate Government NEVER Surrendered

James Waddell and CSS Shenandoah



CSS Shenandoah in Australia in 1865. (Chicago History Museum/UIG/Getty Images)

The Confederate raiding vessel CSS Shenandoah had the dubious distinction of accidentally firing the final shots of the Civil War. Purchased from the British, the ship was commissioned in October 1864 and dispatched to “seek out and utterly destroy” Union commerce on the high seas. Under the command of Captain James Waddell, Shenandoah journeyed halfway around the world from Madeira to Australia before entering the Pacific Ocean. Sailing north to the Bering Sea, the ship spent the summer of 1865 wreaking havoc on the American whaling fleet. In total, Shenandoah seized six vessels, burned 32 others and captured over 1,000 prisoners.

Unbeknownst to Shenandoah’s crew, almost all of this raiding took place after the collapse of the Confederacy. It was August 2, 1865, before Captain Waddell learned the war had ended, and he quickly realized that his men would be tried as pirates if apprehended by the U.S. Navy. In order to avoid arrest, he elected to voyage around the tip of southern South America and sail for England. In the process, Shenandoah became the only Confederate vessel to complete a circumnavigation of the globe. Waddell and his raiders would finally turn themselves in to British authorities on November 6, 1865—almost a full seven months after Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox.